

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15
SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12
MCT-01 EB-08 /065 W
-----067466 281559Z /50

O 281444Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5199
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANA 3169

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR
SUBJ: TWINAM MEETINGS IN YAR

BEGIN SUMMARY: LONG MEETING WITH ABD AL-AZIZ
ABD AL-GHANI PROVIDED DETAILED AND GENERALLY GLOOMY
ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE FOR SECURITY IN SOUTH ARABIA.
ABD AL-GHANI SAID HE THEREFORE WELCOMED WITH SPECIAL
WARMTH ASSURANCES AND INQUIRIES BROUGHT BY TWINAM.
END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI RECEIVED
TWINAM AND RANSOM ON 27 JUNE WITH MOHAMMED
ABD AL-AZIZ SALAM AS NOTETAKER FOR YAR SIDE.
2. TWINAM EXPLAINED BACKGROUND FOR HIS TRIP TO YAR
AND TO SANA AND DRAWING ON INSTRUCTIONS, OUTLINED US
CONCERN FOR YAR AND CONFIDENCE IN DETERMINATION OF NEW
LEADERSHIP TO CONTINUE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN
LAST SEVERAL YEARS IN ECONOMY AND IN CLOSENESS OF
TIES WITH US AND SAUDI ARABIA.
3. ABD AL-GHANI SAID THAT, ESPECIALLY IN PRESENT CIR-
CUMSTANCES, YEMEN LOOKED FOR CLOSER RELATIONSHIPS WITH

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US. HE NOTED THAT YAR IN RECENT YEARS HAD MADE
CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY AND HAD BEEN ABLE
TO LARGELY ELIMINATE SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS. HOWEVER,
HE SAID, COUNTRY FACED NEW PERIOD AND NEW SITUATION
NOW, ONE IN WHICH SUBVERSION WILL PROBABLY GROW, LED
BY EXTREMIST ELEMENTS WHO HAVE SEIZED POWER IN THE
SOUTH.

4. ABD AL-GHANI SAID HE HAD EXPECTED SHOWDOWN IN SOUTH YEMEN BETWEEN MARXIST PARTY ELEMENTS AND RELATIVELY MORE MODERATE NATIONALIST GROUPS IN PDRY BY OCTOBER, WHEN NEW PARTY WAS TO BE LAUNCHED BUT, WITH RUSSIAN SUPPORT, COMMUNISTS NOW HAVE FULL POWER IN SOUTH.

5. "WE VIEW THE SITUATION WITH THE UTMOST CONCERN," SAID ABD AL-GHANI. "IT IS VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE WHOLE PENINSULA. THE GOAL IS OIL. THIS IS THE TIME WE LOOK TO YOU; FOR YOUR EVALUATION AND FOR WHAT STEPS YOU WILL TAKE."

6. TWINAM ASKED WHETHER SOVIET INFLUENCE WAS LIKELY TO CLIMB WITHIN YAR. ABD AL-GHANI NOTED THAT YAR HAD NOT BEEN "BEST OF FRIENDS" WITH SOVIET UNION OF LATE BUT STILL DEPENDED ON IT FOR MOST MILITARY EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY AIRPLANES. HE SAID YAR HAD BEEN OPEN TO ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY AND SOUGHT GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL AS LONG AS IT WAS POSSIBLE TO KEEP YEMENI TRADITIONS AND MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE. IN HIS VIEW, SOVIETS NO LONGER SOUGHT JUST FRIENDS BUT WANTED TO WORK WITH FULLY COMMUNIST STATES LIKE AFGHANISTAN, ETHIOPIA AND SOUTH YEMEN. REACTION AGAINST SOMALIA REFLECTS SAME POLICY.
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7. NOW THAT SOVIETS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN AFGHANISTAN AND ADEN, SAID ABD AL-GHANI, THIS WILL "WHET THEIR APPETITE." SALIM, HE SAID, HAD BEEN TRYING TO ESCAPE THE NOOSE. "SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?" SAID ABD AL-GHANI, GOING ON TO NOTE THAT IT WAS NO LONGER ENOUGH TO BE COMMUNIST AND HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES. POLICY WAS FRANKLY EXPANSIONIST AND BLATANTLY IGNORED WELFARE AND INTERESTS OF PEOPLE OF COUNTRY LIKE PDRY.

8. TWINAM ASKED WHETHER SOUTH REALLY COULD EXERCISE APPEAL OVER CITIZENS OF NORTH YEMEN IN ANY ATTEMPT TO EXPAND. ABD AL-GHANI REPLIED THAT COMMUNISTS "DIDN'T COME TO POWER THROUGH THE BALLOT." THEY WERE DETERMINED TO EXPAND BY FORCE RATHER THAN WIN HEARTS AND MINDS. EVEN WITH HALF OF THE POPULATION OF PDRY HAVING RUN AWAY, COMMUNISTS "DON'T CARE."

9. TWINAM ASKED WHETHER THREAT WAS POLITICAL SUBVERSION OR TERRORISM. ABD AL-GHANI REPLIED THAT PDRY WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WAS SO STRONG IT COULD

HIT WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT WANTED TO SHOW THAT PDRY
RULERS WERE "SUPERMEN." THUS, THEY WILL EMBOLDEN
THEIR NEW FOLLOWERS AND DAUNT THEIR MANY OPPONENTS.
ABD AL-GHANI THEN SAID " WE INTEND TO TAKE EVERY STEP
TO SHOW PEOPLE PDRY IS NOT SO STRONG."

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SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12
MCT-01 EB-08 /065 W
-----067845 281600Z /50

O 281444Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5200
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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10. EXPLAING HIMSELF, ABD AL-GHANI SAID THAT YAR
INTENDED TO MAKE ITS ECONOMIC SYSTEM WORK FOR THE
WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE AND AT THE SAME TIME BUILD UP
A DEFENSE AGAINST INVASION.

11. TWINAM STRESSED THAT WHATEVER US ABHORRENCE FOR
TERRORISM HE DID NOT THINK COUNTERTERRORISM WAS
ANSWER. TWINAM ALSO NOTED THAT FOR EVERY SOVIET AND
RADICAL MOVE TO EXPAND, COUNTERPRESSURES DEVELOP
QUICKLY. HE NOTED THAT AFTER EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN
REACTION IN INDIA, IRAN AND EVEN IRAQ HAD BEEN ADVERSE
TO SOVIET INTERESTS. ABD AL-GHANI REPLIED THAT DANGER
WAS THAT ANY COUNTRY THAT BECAME COMMUNIST NEVER
ESCAPED. HE SAID THAT NATIONALIST FORCES IN EGYPT
AND IRAQ HAD PREVENTED COMMUNISTS FROM TAKING OVER.
HOWEVER, ONCE MARXISTS DO TAKE OVER, OTHER VOICES
ARE SILENCED. TWINAM ASKED WHETHER OR NOT PROBLEMS
AT HOME WOULD NOT OCCUPY NEW REGIME IN PDRY
WHETHER IT WAS COMMUNIST OR NOT. ABD AL-GHANI SAID
HE THOUGHT FOREIGN ELEMENTS LIKE RUSSIANS, CUBANS AND
EVEN EHTIOPIANS COULD STILL MOUNT POTENT DANGER TO
YAR. HE NOTED THAT PDRY WAS NOW GIBLY EXPLAINING
COUP AGAINST SALIM AS REPRISAL FOR ALTTER'S ASSASSINATION
OF GHASHMI. PARTY LINE WAS THAT SALIM HAD ACTED AS

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ONE MAN WHILE PARTY HAD DONE EVERYTHING TO AVOID ATTEMPTS TO STIR UP WAR IN NORTH. PARTY HAD BEEN FORCED TO STRIP SALIM OF HIS POSTS AND EXECUTE HIM IN INTERESTS OF OGGD RELATIONS OF YAR AND PENINSULAR COUNTRIES. ABD AL-GHANI NOTED THAT YEMENIS ARE INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT ABD AL-FATTAH ISMAIL HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ASSASSINATION OF BOTH GHASHMI AND SALIM WITH DEATH OF ONE USED TO FRAME THE OTHER, AND CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT YAR WAS KING ITS CASE TO ARAB LEAGUE ON SATURDAY.

12. NOTING THAT SOUTH "FEARS OUR NUMBERS" AND "FEARS UPRISING IF WE FIGHT THEM." ABD AL-GHANI SAID, "WE ARE NOT CONTENT. WE MUST BE STRONG AND CONTINUE TO PREPARE OURSELVES MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY FOR CONFLICT WITH TO OCCUR IN NEAR FUTURE."

COMMENT: ABD AL-GHANI APPEARED AS CAREFUL AND REASONED OBSERVED OR RECENT EVENTS. HIS EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN WERE BALANCED BY STATEMENTS OF DETERMINATION TO FACE UP TO THE SITUATION. IN THIS TALK, AS IN OTHERS THERE WAS STRONG SUGGESTION THAT ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE MUST BE STRENGTHENS IN NEAR FUTURE AND IMAGE OF SOUTH YEMEN MUST BE ALTERED TO COUNTER ANY NEW TEMPTATION OF SOUTH YEMEN TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE IN NORTH, PARTICULARLY WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. ABD AL-GHANI WELCOME FOR TWINAM ASSURANCES WAS REAL AND UNMISTAKABLE AS WAS HIS SENSE OF NEED FOR PRACTICAL ACTION TO CARRY OUT THESE ASSURANCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANA03169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-0779
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780611/aaaaajnv.tel
Line Count: 206
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 97bdc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2172133
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWINAM MEETINGS IN YAR BEGIN SUMMARY: LONG MEETING WITH ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI PROVIDED DETAILED AND GENERALLY GLOOM
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, US, YE, YS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/97bdc97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014